

## **DRAFT Minutes of Thursday, June 12, 2014**

Location: DDS Central Office, Conference Room A

**In attendance:** Adrienne Benjamin; Jack Frost, Vice Chair; James Heffernan; Dr. Terrence Macy, Ex-Officio; Diana Mennone; Sheila Mulvey; Dr. John Pelegano; Patrick Vingo

**Absent:** David Hadden, Jamie Lazaroff, Patti Silva, Lisa Weisinger-Roland

**Staff:** Joseph Drexler, Deputy Commissioner; Rod O'Connor, Legislative and Regulations Analyst; Margaret Valentino, Executive Secretary

Vice Chairperson Jack Frost opened the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

### **Public Comment**

No one from the public attended the meeting.

### **Approval of June Minutes**

Minutes for the June meeting were reviewed and approved. The Council voted to accept the June minutes without changes.

Council members and staff introduced themselves to Dr. Neil Stein who is interested in becoming a Council member. He was invited by Dr. John Pelegano who is concluding his third two-year term on the Council.

### **Legislative Update – Rod O'Connor**

Mr. O'Connor gave informational handouts on all the DDS 2014 Public Acts and answered questions from the group. He said he would send an email with the links to the specific bills. He also passed out the Scope of Study on the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee's Transitional Services for Youth and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder study. Mr. O'Connor explained the hand out and answered questions about the purpose of the study and discussed how the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee works. He said that as the study progresses there will be a public hearing where Council members may testify. DDS legislative staff will keep the Council updated on the study and when the public hearing is scheduled.

### **Commissioner's Update**

The Commissioner mentioned how busy DDS staff is working on many projects along with managing of day-to-day department operations. He discussed some negative news reports concerning the backlog of DDS Abuse and Neglect Registry cases. DDS has developed a plan to address the case backlog with the hiring of four employees in the Legal Division to facilitate the timely completion of the registry process.

The Commissioner said that the Governor will be announcing that Jonathan Slifka will be heading up the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services Improvement Working Group.

The Commissioner spoke about his **recent** National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) Directors Forum and Mid-Year Conference in New Orleans. The major theme of the conference was people with intellectual disabilities and co-existing health disorders. The Commissioner was impressed with the how Ohio is transforming there disability services.

He explained how the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is responsible for the regulatory oversight of Ohio's 88 County Boards. The Commissioner explained how Ohio is using a telepsychiatry program which uses communication networks for delivery of health care services and medical education from one geographical location to another. The Commissioner said he had learned a lot from the presenters and that it was an intense full four days of information.

The Commissioner updated the Council on a program that took place in May on Creating Blue Space: Fostering Innovative Support Practices for People with Developmental Disabilities program at the NEAT Marketplace. Hanns Meissner, the author of *"Creating Blue Space"* and Beth Mount, prominent mentor of Person-Centered Planning presented to DDS managers on learning new strategies to effectively support providers who are interested in developing and expanding Individualized Support services. DDS was fortunate to have Michael Smull as one of the presenters. Michael Smull, Hanns Meissner and Beth Mount said DDS staff was very motivated and that Connecticut is a very special place to do person-centered planning.

The Commissioner spoke of the Healthy Relationships policy launch done with Planned Parenthood and how proud he was of all the self-advocates and DDS staff who worked so hard in making this policy and guidelines a reality.

The Commissioner announced the Pilot Individual and Family Supports (IFS) Training Academy run by DDS had its first graduating class and explained to the Council what the Academy was and how successful the program has been.

#### **Old Business**

None.

#### **New Business**

Council members said goodbye to Dr. Pelegano and hoped Dr. Stein would join the Council.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m.